

# Advisory Council on Aging and Disability Services

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*Creating choices for elders and adults with disabilities in Seattle-King County*

## MONTHLY MEETING FEBRUARY 10, 2006

### MEMBERS PRESENT

CITY OF SEATTLE	KING COUNTY	UNITED WAY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thelma Coney	<input type="checkbox"/> Lisa Yeager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Midge Levy, Secretary
<input type="checkbox"/> Joanne Brekke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Verhei	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lorna Stone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adam John	<input type="checkbox"/> John Holecek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thelma Pegues, Member-At-Large
<input type="checkbox"/> Alexandra Tu	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Barnett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Timmie Faghin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Rasmussen	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Moreland, Chair
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phil Pitruzzello
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Houston Brown, Vice-	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Miller
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Robert Gross	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audrey Jernigan
<input type="checkbox"/> Candace Inagi	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amy Astle-Raaen

**Excused Absence** John Holecek, Joanne Brekke, Tom Rasmussen, Candace Inagi

**Guests** Art Mussman, Will Parry, Nuuan Tran, Devon Nichols, Kate Slaminko, Kip Tokuda

**ADS Staff** Pamela Piering, Rosemary Cunningham, Margaret Casey, Maria Langlais, Linda Wells

**United Way Staff** Linda Woodall

**King County  
Staff**

## MINUTES

**Don Moreland, Chair** convened the Advisory Council (AC) meeting at 12:00 p.m. and invited everyone attending to introduce themselves.

### PROGRAM : 2006 W4A LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

There were several elements to today's program on the 2006 Legislative Issues. They included the following.

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In association with the Area Agency on Aging for Seattle-King County and sponsored by:



City of Seattle



King County

## **Review of Issues**

Pamela Piering provided a PowerPoint presentation on the 2006 w4a Legislative Agenda. This year w4a has joined forces with the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, Alzheimer's Association, ElderHealth Northwest and the Resident Council of Washington to form the Eldercare Alliance. The Eldercare Alliance supports six key issues listed below. Total cost to the state for funding these items would be \$3.8 million.

### **1) Adult Day Health Rate Increase**

DSHS recommended a 14% increase to the day services rate as rates are not adequate to meet client needs. Eight service sites across the state have been lost because of the low reimbursement rate. Adult day services are a cost effective alternative to residential care and this increase is justified to help agencies meet client needs and the WAC.

### **2) Social Security Increase Pass through to Nursing Home Residents for Personal Needs Allowance (PNA)**

PNA allows nursing home residents to pay for a variety of things such as toiletries, clothing, and a phone. The current PNA for nursing home residents is \$51.62. Prior to 2005 it had been \$41.62. Federal support to states has increased 4%, and the Eldercare Allowance supports raising the PNA 4% or \$2.06 per month.

### **3) Restore Cut in Case Management Services**

In the 2005-2007 state budget, Case Management services were cut 3.75% and a targeted vendor rate increase was omitted. Case managers coordinate non-department services for 25,000 in-home, long-term care clients. Services to these clients are at risk of deteriorating because of this cut. The funding should be restored to Case Management Services.

### **4) Ombudsman Visits to Adult Family Homes**

Only 24% of Adult Family Homes (AFH) statewide are currently visited by an Ombudsman. Residents of these facilities are isolated and among the most vulnerable in our state. Ombudsman's early receipt of complaints can prevent serious problems at a facility. Eldercare Alliance supports increased staffing at the state and regional level.

### **5) Enhance/Expand Respite Care**

The majority of caregivers in our state are unpaid. Their work is stressful and physically demanding to the point that institutionalization often occurs as a result of caregiver burnout, not a change in the family member's health status. Respite supports families and delays the need for more expensive institutional care.

### **6) Increase Senior Citizen's Services Act (SCSA) funding to support Senior I&A**

Medicare Part D implementation has placed tremendous demands on Senior I&A programs. There have also experienced a significant rise in calls regarding fraud and identity theft. By increasing SCSA funding, Senior I&A staffing can be increased to meet those needs.

### **Advocacy Demonstration**

**Kip Tokuda**, a Human Services Department employee, and former State Representative assisted the Advisory Council in preparing for Senior Advocacy Day next week. He, Don Moreland, Phil Pitruzzello and Margaret Casey took turns playing the role of legislator and advocate to demonstrate effective advocacy techniques.

Kip commented that it is important to narrow your comments to one or two issues rather than multiple items, and to be respectful. Don Moreland indicated that it is also important to start your discussion with a thank you.

### **Senior Lobby Day**

Pam explained the logistics for Senior Lobby Day which will be held on Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. Three vehicles will leave the Alaska Building at 8:15 am and return about 4:15 pm. Appointments with legislators will be scheduled between 9:30 am and 3:00 pm. At 10:45 Governor Gregoire will speak to the Senior Lobby Day attendees.

### **On-line Advocacy Tool**

**Maria Langlais** indicated that w4a is launching the Democracy in Action advocacy tool at their website: [www.agingwashington.org](http://www.agingwashington.org). Individuals who have provided their e-mail address will receive action alerts on current issues. Using the tool they can quickly send an e-mail to their legislators to voice their opinion. Advisory Council members were encouraged to sign up to receive the advocacy alerts.

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

### **Announcements**

**Don Moreland** announced that Channel 9 will re-broadcast the KCTS Connects forum on Medicare Part D on Sunday, Feb. 12 at noon.

### **Minutes**

**Action Taken:** It was moved/seconded and passed that the December 9, 2005 minutes be approved.

### **Sponsor's Meeting Report**

**Pam** reported that the last Sponsor's meeting was devoted to Kinship Care. She emphasized that it is parenting, not grandparenting. The Sponsors heard about all the various ways that Kinship Caregivers are supported through both State and Federal dollars.

## **COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS**

### **Planning and Allocation Committee**

**Rosemary Cunningham** reported that this month's committee's meeting was primarily an orientation for committee members.

### **Health Care Task Force**

**Larry Verhei** reminded members to watch Don Moreland on Channel 9. He also indicated that Hearing Aid legislation will not be passed this year. The issue will be raised again next year.

### **Outreach and Advocacy Committee**

**Timmie Faghin** reported on several items including:

1) Patty Murray's office provided an excellent presentation on Medicare part D. Of particular concern are the "Dual Eligibles" who have no choice in their participation in Medicare Part D as do others who are not on Medicaid. In addition, these previously-Medicaid eligibles have experienced a host of problems trying to get signed up. Considering the problems they have experienced, is it realistic to have May 15, 2006 as the final date for others to sign up? What can we do? Timmie suggested it is important to collect stories from hardship cases to personalize the issue.

2) Lobby Day in Olympia was reviewed and members encouraged participate.

3) Equity Legislation – The Outreach & Advocacy Committee recommended the Advisory Council adopt the following policy and authorize the chair to advocate for its adoption by the state. The Resolution reads as follows:

"In its estate recovery program, the Department of Social & Health Services should provide protections to surviving partners in same-gender couples (who are not permitted to marry) that are comparable to the protections provided to surviving spouses."

**Action Taken:** It was moved/seconded and passed that the Advisory Council adopt the above policy and authorize the Chair to advocate for it.

4) Puget Sound Alliance of Retired Americans requests individuals call their legislators to support two health care bills. Senator Kohl-Welles and Representative Cody have introduced Fair Share Health Care legislation (SH 6356 & HB 2517) that would require businesses with 5,000 employees to spend at least 9% of their payrolls on employee health care or pay the difference into the state's health care fund. Both passed the policy committee and are awaiting floor votes. Wal-mart is one employer in Washington that would be affected by the bill.

Puget Sound Alliance also supports HB 2572 which would establish the Small Employer Health Insurance Partnership Program and add 10,000 Basic Health Plan slots. This has passed committee and is awaiting floor vote.

5) Other issues the Committee will be taking up include: Regional Transportation, Compassion & Choices (related to former Governor Booth Gardner's initiative), and the Legislative Forum which will be held this fall.

**Don Moreland** commented that Medicare Part D is actually two programs:

- 1) Dual Eligible program for whom participation is not voluntary, and that selects the pharmaceutical plans they are enrolled in without their input; and,
- 2) Voluntary enrollment program for all except “Dual Eligibles”.

### **Retreat Committee Report**

**Don Moreland** spoke briefly about the Retreat Committee Report that had been mailed to members, including the WHCoA and the Small Groups portion of the report. John Barnett commented that the 84 suggestions generated by the small group discussions needed to be prioritized for implementation. Don will follow-up with the Executive Committee on this.

### **Communication’s Committee**

**Timmie Faghin** reminded everyone of the recent edition of Seniors Digest and noted the excellent feature on Houston Brown. Linda Woodall suggested the Seniors Digest be advertised at Senior Lobby Day next week.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **2006 Meeting Calendar**

**Action Taken:** It was moved/seconded and passed that the Advisory Council change its regular April meeting from April 14<sup>th</sup> (Good Friday) to Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>.

John Barnett commended Don Moreland and ADS staff, Marcy Kubbs, on their work planning this year’s Advisory Council retreat. He indicated Timmie Faghin should receive a special commendation for the excellent leadership she provided the Council the last two years.

### **Seattle City Council**

**Councilmember Tom Rasmussen** arrived and provided the following report.

- 1) Seattle Public Utilities has implemented an emergency fund for those needing assistance paying utility bills, but it is only a pilot. He would like to see funding for this to become permanent. Keep the Water On!
- 2) Elder Abuse - The Policy Department has the funding and authority to hire an additional detective to deal with the backlog of elder abuse reports, but the Chief may at his discretion, not do so. The Advisory Council could advocate for this to be done.
- 3) Committee Assignments – Councilmember Rasmussen will be keeping all his City Council Committee assignments. New Councilmember, Sally Clark, will be Vice-Chair of the Housing & Human Services Committee.

## **Director's Report**

**Pamela Piering** reported on a number of items to the Advisory Council.

1) Pam explained that the role of the Planning and Allocation Committee includes: making recommendations on the allocation of discretionary funds, assisting with the development of the Area Plan, and gaining a deeper understanding of service areas by visiting sites or requesting staff or provider presentations.

2) Medicare Part D - \$14 million in federal money is available to states to pay the co-pays for Dual Eligibles. However, this assistance will not be retroactive and will only last one year.

3) ADS Case Management program has a number of Dual Eligibles. Linda Wells is leading a team of volunteers to assist their transition.

4) The new federal budget includes cuts to human services, including to the Older American's Act (OAA). The Health Promotion fund will be replaced by a new Freedom's Initiative.

5) Agency for Health Care quality & Research (AHCQR). Pam is on the faculty of the AHCQR and will participate in workshops during the week of February 15<sup>th</sup> in Atlanta.

6) Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, a conference on "The Plight of the Older African American Woman" will be held at the University of Washington's School of Social Work from 1:00 – 4:00 pm. Dr. Maxine Hayes, Washington State Health Officer, will be the key note speaker.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

### **NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

**Friday, March 10, 2005**

**12:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

**13<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room**

**Alaska Building**

**618 Second Ave, Seattle, WA 98104**

**[www.adsadvisorycouncil.org](http://www.adsadvisorycouncil.org)**

Midge Levy, Secretary \_\_\_\_\_